

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a teleconference on January 7, 2004. During the teleconference, the Examiner indicated claims 36 and 48 contain allowable subject. By this Supplemental Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 20 and 27. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-27, 29-36, 38-49 and 51-56 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: January 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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